

REMARKS

The Office Action indicated that the Japanese Patent Publication 9-81118A, which was cited as relating to the general state of the art, was not found in the USPTO file. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Casio Computer Company Laid-Open Patent Application, along with an English Abstract and a computer-generated English translation. It is respectfully requested that it be considered and made of record. The PTO Form A820 is attached hereto.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory matter. It is believed that the amendment of Claim 10 now provides a tangible computer-readable recording medium containing a program that enables a computer to perform the listed steps. It is believed that this now complies with 35 U.S.C. §101.

The Office Action rejected each of the outstanding Claims 1-11 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by the *Ikeda et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0188223).

Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned prior art rejection since the *Ikeda et al.* reference does not have an applicable 35 U.S.C. §102(e) prior art date. Please note, the *Ikeda et al.* reference is based on a national stage of an International Application filed on or after November 29, 2000, which was not published in English, and accordingly, no benefit of the international filing date nor of any U.S. filing dates prior to the International Application can be given for 35 U.S.C. §102(e) prior art purposes (see MPEP §706.02(f) and Example 5 on Page 700-34 of the MPEP).

Accordingly, it is requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

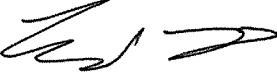
In view of the amendments to the claims and the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is allowable and the Examiner is kindly requested to promptly pass this case to issuance.

In the event, however, that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the applicant's representative to expedite allowance of this Application.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of the case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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